

By: Ortiz, Jr.

H.R. No. 530

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Nueces County lost a respected judge and community
2 leader with the passing of the Honorable Carl Eric Lewis on October
3 25, 2008, at the age of 56; and

4 WHEREAS, Carl Lewis was born on January 29, 1952, in Corpus
5 Christi; he distinguished himself as a student and an athlete
6 during his youth, particularly during his years at Moody High
7 School; his portrait appears in the Moody High Hall of Fame, and his
8 name is in the record books for scoring the school's first
9 touchdown; and

10 WHEREAS, After graduating from high school, Mr. Lewis turned
11 down an academic scholarship to Cornell University in order to
12 attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; a football injury
13 precluded his admission, and he went on to earn a bachelor's degree
14 in English from Yale University; and

15 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan returned to Corpus Christi and
16 took a job in the city's human resources department, where he helped
17 carry out an initiative to offer job training to low-income
18 individuals; he graduated from The University of Texas School of
19 Law in 1979 and worked as assistant city attorney, as assistant
20 county attorney, and as a criminal defense lawyer at the firm of
21 Tinker, Tor & Lewis before being elected the Nueces County attorney
22 in 1992; and

23 WHEREAS, A tireless advocate of justice for children, Mr.
24 Lewis began serving as judge of County Court at Law No. 5 in 1999 and

1 oversaw countless cases involving juveniles; he handled situations
2 of abuse, neglect, gang violence, parental custody, and other very
3 sensitive issues with his characteristic intuition, wit, and
4 humanity; originally appointed to the bench, he retained his seat
5 in a 1999 election, and each of his bids for reelection was a
6 resounding success; and

7 WHEREAS, Judge Lewis was a devoted father and took great
8 pride in his children, Summer and Ben; a man of diverse talents, he
9 was a founding member of Carl Lewis and the Deadbeats, a blues band
10 composed mostly of fellow lawyers that performed at benefits and
11 fund-raisers; Judge Lewis wrote songs, played harmonica, and sang
12 in the group, and he was elated when his son, Ben, became old enough
13 to take the bandstand with the Deadbeats; and

14 WHEREAS, Carl Lewis served the residents of Nueces County
15 with integrity, compassion, and unwavering devotion to the
16 well-being of his community and its citizens; although he is deeply
17 missed, all those fortunate enough to have known him will forever
18 cherish memories of time spent in his company; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Carl Eric Lewis and
21 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his
22 children, Hayden Summer Lewis and Benjamin David Lewis; to his
23 mother, June Lewis; to his brothers, Victor, James, David, and
24 Michael Lewis; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be
25 it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of

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1 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Carl Lewis.